

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 12016

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, UN, NP
SUBJECT: DR. MALLA'S VISIT TO UN LABORATORY

REF: GENEVA 8911

1. DR. MALLA, DIRECTOR GFNERAL OF NEPAL'S ROYAL DRUG RESEARCH LABORATORY, VISITED UN LABORATORY, GENEVA, DECEMBER 6 AND 7 TO DISCUSS HIS REQUEST FOR SEEDS AND RESEARCH INFORMATION ON PAPAVER SOMNIFERUM AND PAPAVER BRACTEATUM. HE MET WITH OFFICIALS OF UN LABORATORY: DR. BRAENDEN, DIRECTOR; MISS LUMSDEN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR; DR. GARRISON, CONSULTANT; AND WITH THE SECRETARY OF COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS, MR. NOLL. DURING GENERAL DISCUSSION, MR. NOLL REPORTEDLY DID AN EXCELLENT JOB OF DIPLOMATICALLY EXPLAINING THAT IN VIEW OF NEPAL'S NON-ADHERENCE TO THE SINGLE CONVENTION, THE UN LAB WOULD BE CRITICIZED IF IT WERE TO PROVIDE NEPAL POPPY SEEDS OR RESEARCH MATERIALS. HE ALSO STRESSED THE CONCERN OF THE CND AND THE ECOSOC ABOUT COUNTRIES COMMENCING PRODUCTION OF PAPAVER BRACTEATUM AS WELL AS THE GENERAL INTERNATIONAL CONCERN MANIFESTED IN THE SINGLE CONVENTION ABOUT AVOIDING
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AN OVERSUPPLY OF OPIATES ON THE WORLD MARKET. DR. GARRISON IN TURN POINTED OUT THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF PRODUCING OPIATES ON SMALL SCALE FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION IN NEPAL (DR. GARRISON COMMENTED TO MISSION OFFICER THAT DR. MALLA APPEARED TO NOT HAVE PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED THE ECONOMIC QUESTION).

2. DR. BRAENDEN SUGGESTED THAT DR. MALLA MIGHT WISH TO INVESTIGATE OTHER DRUG-RELATED PLANTS WHICH COULD BE CULTIVATED IN NEPAL. IN THIS CONTEXT HE RECOMMENDED PYRETHRUM, WHICH HAS USES AS A PESTICIDE OR INSECTICIDE. DR. MALLA EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THIS TOPIC, AND SUBSEQUENTLY SPENT TIME AT THE LAB UNDER DR. GARRISON'S GUIDANCE LOOKING INTO RESEARCH ON PYRETHRUM. LAB OFFICIALS UNDERTOOK TO TRY TO GET DR. MALLA SOME SEEDS OF THIS PLANT FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES, AS WELL AS SOME LABORATORY EQUIPMENT FOR DOING RESEARCH ON PYRETHRUM PLANTS.

3. DRS. BRAENDEN AND GARRISON AND MR. NOLL WERE PLEASED THAT DR. MALLA APPEARED RECEPTIVE TO THEIR EFFORTS TO DISCOURAGE POPPY RESEARCH AND TO CONSIDER ALTERNATE RESEARCH AREAS. DR. MALLA IMPRESSED THEM AS AN INTELLIGENT AND KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUAL, WELL-ACQUAINTED WITH RECENT LITERATURE IN HIS FIELD. WHILE AT THE LAB, HE ALSO DID SOME RESEARCH INTO RECENT REPORTS ON THE EFFECTS OF CANNABIS USE.

4. FOR DEPARTMENT. SHOULD USG RECEIVE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING DR. MALLA WITH PYRETHRUM SEEDS, FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES, MISSION WOULD RECOMMEND WE BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE. VANDEN HEUVEL

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